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ISSUES IN EDUCATION

AFT RESEARCH REPORT

CHANGE IN STATE SCHOOL AGE POPULATION (AGES 5-17) 1980 TO 1981

(Issued September 2, 1982)

The U.S. Bureau of the Census estimates that the school age population (ages 5-17) in the United States dropped 2.5 percent to 46,221,000 between April 1, 1980 and July 1, 1981. This means that declines in school enrollment will continue in most states for the near future. However, the Census Bureau has reported that the number of children under 5 years of age increased over the same period by 3.6 percent. This foreshadows increases in school enrollment in many states beginning in the mid-1980's.

Only six states experienced increases in school age population between 1980 and 1981. Two of these were the Sun Belt states of Texas and Florida and the other four were Mountain states - Utah, Wyoming, Nevada, and Idaho. Very modest losses of less than 1 percent occurred in Oklahoma, Alaska, Arizona, and Louisiana. At the other end of the spectrum, losses of four percent or greater were experienced in Connecticut, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Michigan, Delaware, and the District of Columbia. Significant enrollment declines are occurring in those states.

The table that follows shows the percent change in school age population between 1980 and 1981, by state.

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CHANGE IN STATE SCHOOL AGE POPULATION (AGES 5-17)
1980 TO 1981

I. States With Growing School Age Populations (6)

Utah	3.8 percent	Texas	0.7 percent
Wyoming	2.7	Florida	0.4
Nevada	1.5	Idaho	0.1

II. States With Shrinking School Age Populations (45)

A. Loss of 0.9 Percent or Less (4)

Oklahoma	-0.3 percent	Arizona	-0.7 percent
Alaska	-0.4	Louisiana	-0.8

B. Loss of 1 Percent to 1.9 Percent (7)

Hawaii	-1.3 percent	New Mexico	-1.7
Washington	-1.3	California	-1.8
Colorado	-1.5	North Dakota	-1.8
Georgia	-1.7		

C. Loss of 2 Percent to 2.9 Percent (12)

West Virginia	-2.0 percent	Kansas	-2.5 percent
Oregon	-2.3	Mississippi	-2.5
Montana	-2.4	South Carolina	-2.5
New Hampshire	-2.4	Alabama	-2.6
North Carolina	-2.4	Nebraska	-2.7
Arkansas	-2.5	Virginia	-2.9

D. Loss of 3 Percent to 3.9 Percent (16)

Tennessee	-3.0 percent	New Jersey	-3.7 percent
Kentucky	-3.1	Indiana	-3.8
Maine	-3.2	Iowa	-3.8
Illinois	-3.3	Ohio	-3.8
Missouri	-3.4	Pennsylvania	-3.8
Wisconsin	-3.4	Rhode Island	-3.8
New York	-3.5	Maryland	-3.9
Vermont	-3.6	South Dakota	-3.9

E. Loss of 4 Percent or More (6)

Connecticut	-4.0 percent	Michigan	-4.5 percent
Massachusetts	-4.0	Delaware	-4.8
Minnesota	-4.0	Dist. of Columbia	-6.0

National Average -2.5 percent

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

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